



<http://epractice.eu/>

European ePractice Newsletter N. 280 – 26 May 2009

Latest Cases

- [Mobile Parking Project](#) | 11 May 2009 | Turkey
 - [Red SARA](#) | 3 May 2009 | Spain
 - [Agrega, federated access to educational content](#) | 30 April 2009 | Spain
-

Mobile Parking Project

The project aims at solving the parking problem in Istanbul by using mobile technologies, especially mobile phones. The users subscribe to the system before they use it. After that, they use SMS function of their mobile phones to park their cars and the parking bills are sent to them within their mobile phone bills. This project was made possible by the joint efforts of Municipality of Istanbul and Turkcell Mobile Phone Company. The system is in-use in certain areas of Istanbul for now. It is expected to increase efficiency in municipal parking services in terms of cost.

Red SARA

Red SARA allows the interconnection of the Spanish Public Administrations enabling the cooperation and the exchange of information and services between them. Ministries, Autonomous Communities, Local Entities and other public bodies may connect their networks through Red SARA in a secure, reliable, capable and flexible way. The IP addressing plan facilitates the interconnection of the Spanish Public Administrations through Red SARA.

Besides, thanks to the link between Red SARA and the transeuropean network sTESTA, the Spanish Public Administrations may be interconnected with the Commission Services and administrations of other Member States for the participation in cross-border European services.

Red SARA is a relevant interoperability infrastructure for the development of eGovernment in Spain. It answers the statement in Law 11/2007 about the creation of a communications platform to interconnect Spanish Public Administrations and with the networks of European Institutions and of other Member States in order to facilitate the exchange of services and information between them.

Some relevant features of Red SARA are the following:

- Reliability: Red SARA is designed with VPLS (*Virtual Private LAN Services*) which allows high capacity for data transmission. Its design and technologies allow Red SARA to offer high availability which is complemented with a support centre operating 24 x 7 and with demanding SLAs.
- Security: Red SARA implements a range of security measures. All traffic is ciphered through the backbone and it is possible to establish VPNs.
- Capacity: Red SARA has a bandwidth of 1+1 Gbps between Ministries and Data Centres and 100 + 34 Mbps in Autonomous Communities. This allows ensuring capacity enough to satisfy demanding requests by existing applications and services as well as new coming eGovernment services.
- Quality of Service: VPLS technology allows quality service mechanisms to handle each type of traffic according to its nature (voice, video, data)
- Point-Multipoint: Red SARA is designed with a connectivity model of point-multipoint so that there is no central node where all connections converge and in this way possible single points of failure are eliminated.
- Flexibility: Red SARA is designed to be able to evolve according to the needs of the administration.

Some relevant services of Red SARA:

- MultiPKI Validation Platform for eID and eSignature Services <http://www.epractice.eu/en/cases/afirma>
- Identity and Residence Data Verification Systems <http://www.epractice.eu/en/cases/identityresidence>
- Spain's Change of Address Communication System <http://www.epractice.eu/en/cases/changeofaddress>
- Gateway for On-Line Payments <http://www.epractice.eu/en/cases/pagos>
- Application for jobs in the Spanish Administration <http://www.epractice.eu/en/cases/ips>

Agrega, federated access to educational content

In 2006 a series of measures were developed in the area of Spanish community Education whose purpose is:

- To define a standard of digital educational content package
- To generate a core group of digital learning objects, in some cases based on existing content, which serve to promote the technological environment created and
- To create a technological environment that will house content which adheres to the aforementioned standard, and which is accessible to the educational community under different modes of use.

In order to meet this latter objective a federation of digital repositories, called *Agrega* has been created with nodes installed in each one of Spain's Autonomous Regions. Each node enables the storage of SCORM 2004 learning objects labeled with LOM-ES metadata (application profile of the LOM metadata specification), and the performance of a set of relevant operations in accordance with the profile defined by the user, such as search, display and the creation of new material.

Latest News

- [GR: Presentation of Hermes, the National Portal of Public Administration](#) | 25 May 2009 | Greece
- [HR: Croatian Information Day on European eGovernment Awards held](#) | 25 May 2009 | Croatia
- [EU: Extended SEMIC.EU repository now available on OSOR.EU](#) | 25 May 2009 | EU Institutions
- [DK: An improved CSRgov.dk version is launched](#) | 22 May 2009 | Denmark

- [EU: Electronic Procurement opens doors to cross-border business within the EU](#) | 22 May 2009 | EU Institutions
 - [GR: IKAnet is now connected to SYZEFXIS](#) | 21 May 2009 | Greece
 - [CZ: Action Plan for the School of the 21st century](#) | 21 May 2009 | Czech Republic
 - [EU: Enhancing the resilience of communications networks](#) | 20 May 2009 | Pan european
 - [UK: Northern Ireland New government website for citizens officially launched](#) | 19 May 2009 | United Kingdom
 - [EU: Transparency in CAP funding](#) | 19 May 2009 | EU Institutions
-

GR: Presentation of Hermes, the National Portal of Public Administration - 25 May 2009

On 6 May 2009, the Greek Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, presented the National Portal of Public Administration, Hermes.

The portal has the latest know-how in technological infrastructure for ensuring the interoperability between the computer systems of public services as well as the secure transaction of public information. In his speech, the Minister stressed that the developed infrastructure ensures the protection of citizen's personal data and the secure management of citizens issues either electronically or through the Citizen Service Centre network.

According to Mr. Pavlopoulos, at its first phase, the Hermes portal provides 100 online services and 11 complete transactions (4th level). As of the next phase, ten of the most important daily transactions between companies and the Social Security Institute (IKA), such as the updating insurance, will also be possible.

The creation of the National Portal and all the services offered at its first phase required a series of complex interventions on technological, organizational and institutional level, and, above all, the cooperation of a wide range of public services. Currently a modern electronic one-stop-shop is available which provides support to citizens through the Citizen Service Centre (KEP).

Further information:

- [Original Official Press Release of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization](#) (in Greek)
 - [Hermes Portal](#)
-

HR: Croatian Information Day on European eGovernment Awards held - 25 May 2009

A national information day dedicated to the European eGovernment Awards was held on 20 May 2009 in Zagreb.

The goal of the information day organised by the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia was to inform the Croatian Public Administration and the business community on the European eGovernment Awards competition, and to encourage them to submit Croatian examples of good practice to the awards scheme.

Over 40 participants took part in the information day, including the representatives of the Public Administration and the ICT community.

This local information day represented a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to learn more about this year's awards, the application procedure and the eligibility criteria, as well as the upcoming Ministerial eGovernment Conference entitled "Teaming up for the eUnion" that will take place between 19 and 20 November in Malmö (Sweden).

"In my opinion, the invitation to participate in this prestigious competition represents an excellent opportunity for the republic of Croatia to demonstrate its outstanding solutions in the implementation of information and communications technology in public administration to the wider European public. As a coordinator in the implementation of e-Croatia programme, which represents a combination of all e-projects in state administration, I know that we have a series of

excellent projects that are really worth representing outside our borders. Therefore, with the wish that Croatia finds its place on the eEurope map, I see these awards as an opportunity for the Croatian ICT sector and the promotion of its exporting potential", said the State Secretary of the Central State Office for e-Croatia, Mr. Igor Lučić.

Important reminder:

Cases submissions for the European eGovernment Awards are to be performed **online by 10 June 2009, at 16:00 CET**.

Further information:

- [Website of the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia](#)
 - [Website of the European eGovernment Awards](#)
 - [ePractice news article - EU: European eGovernment Awards 2009 - Submission form now online](#)
-

EU: Extended SEMIC.EU repository now available on OSOR.EU - 25 May 2009

Following its recent extension, the new platform of the [Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe \(SEMIC.EU\)](#) is now available for download.

The source code and documentation of the systems architecture are accessible on the [projects forge of OSOR.eu](#). This way, all partners interested in re-using the SEMIC.EU platform for their own national or domain specific repository projects are now able to benefit from the latest enhancements made.

Just like the previous version, the SEMIC.EU software is provided under the European Union Public Licence (EUPL).

With this provision of the new software, SEMIC.EU continues its policy of openness, reusability, and transferability. The Centre invites all parties interested in re-using the platform technology to join the ePractice '[SEMIC.EU Technology re-use Community](#)'.

Further information:

- [Official press release - SEMIC.EU website](#)
 - [OSOR.EU website - Projects forge - SEMIC.EU](#)
 - ["SEMIC.EU Technology re-use Community" on ePractice](#)
-

DK: An improved CSRgov.dk version is launched - 22 May 2009

The Danish Commerce and Companies Agency (DCCA) has launched a new and improved version of [CSRgov.dk \(Samfundsansvar.dk\)](#).

It aims to enhance the competitiveness of Danish businesses by providing them with the knowledge and tools to work strategically with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), disseminating knowledge on CSR as a business factor, and assisting companies in turning CSR knowledge into practice.

The companies can incorporate social and environmental considerations into business strategy thus creating value for the company. CSRgov.dk has also been a blog feature through which businesses, organisations and researchers can exchange their views on issues related to Corporate Social Responsibility.

Background information:

CSRgov.dk presents some of the ongoing efforts made by the Danish Government to promote and support corporate social responsibility (CSR) among Danish businesses. The site is run by the Danish Centre for CSR, a part of the Danish Commerce and Companies Agency (DCCA) under the Danish Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Website of Virk.dk \(in Danish\)](#)
 - [Official website of CSRgov.dk](#)
 - [Official website of The Danish Commerce and Companies Agency \(DCCA\)](#)
-

EU: Electronic Procurement opens doors to cross-border business within the EU - 22 May 2009

The European Commission is now making it easier for companies, in particular Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), to bid for public sector contracts anywhere in EU, thus making a crucial step towards the Single European Market.

The Commission will co-finance a pilot project, driven by eight European countries, that will create the conditions to link existing national eProcurement systems. Simplifying cross-border procurement will generate savings on administrative and transaction costs and will benefit taxpayers who ultimately pay for public purchases. The project will invest more than € 19 million over three years, € 9.8 million of which will come from the European Commission's Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

As the Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Vivianne Reding, stated "eProcurement already allows businesses to bid for the largest buyers in the EU - governments. By making sure their systems work together, Member States are helping European businesses to win public sector contracts anywhere in the EU. This is a crucial step towards completion of the Single European Market".

The European Commission is working with Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary and Italy as well as Norway (as a member of the European Economic Area) to enable companies from one country to respond to public procurement tenders in another. The project will not replace, but rather build on, existing national eProcurement systems using information and communication technologies to enable them to communicate with each other. This would allow, for instance, a Czech or Swedish company to bid for a Spanish or Hungarian government contract as easily as for a contract in their home country.

The results go beyond saving taxpayers' money and having leaner procedures: by levelling the playing field for SMEs, the backbone of Europe's economy, cross border eProcurement can boost competitiveness by providing tools for businesses to access the entire European market for public services. At present, SMEs account for 67% of the employees in the business sector and 58% of turnover in the EU, but only win 42% of government contracts.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release -Austrian Federal Computing Centre website](#)
 - [ICT Policy Support Programme \(ICT-PSP\) official website](#)
 - [Competiveness and Innovation Framework Programme \(CIP\) official website](#)
-

GR: IKAnet is now connected to SYZEFXIS - 21 May 2009

At the beginning of May 2009 all Social Security Institute's (IKA) branches gained 'visibility' on the National Network, SYZEFXIS, aiming to the safe and rapid use of many electronic applications offered by the two networks.

IKAnet (www.ika.gr) is the Institute's functional network and serves 393 points throughout Greece. All of the Institute's branches are now being connected to this network; as for the remaining service points of the Institute, they are also being connected to the Central IKA Services, providing a high level of security and reduced telecommunications cost.

With the new connection, the Social Security Institute and its branches:

- Gain access to the electronic applications of the Social Security Number in IDIKA, www.amka.gr, www.idika.gr.

- Are connected to [s-TESTA \(Secure Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations\)](#) network and all the corresponding European databases.
- Are connected to SYZEFXIS' VPN-1 and Citizen Service Centers' (KEP) network in order to ensure the provision of the Institute's electronic services to all KEPs throughout Greece.
- Are connected to the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection and the General Secretariat of Social Security
- Are able to use additional telemetric, voice, data and image services of the National Network

Further information:

- [Original source - SYZEFXIS, National Network of Public Administration](#) (in Greek)
 - [Social Security Institute \(IKA\) website](#) (in Greek)
 - [Social Security Number \(AMKA\) website](#) (in Greek)
-

CZ: Action Plan for the School of the 21st century - 21 May 2009

In the frame of implementing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education, the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has recently published a detailed plan for the period 2009-2013.

The [Action Plan for School of 21st century](#) does not only address the technological aspects of ICT but also the crucial area of supporting and motivating the teaching staff in local education. It has been funded by the State Budget and also by the European Social Fund (ESF) in an attempt to enhance the use of modern technology in education.

According to the plan, the use of ICT in schools will be part of the daily work of teachers. Emphasis will be given to select a different educational policy for each different subject; it depends on the school to decide on what level and to what extent the offered opportunities will be used. The model proposed by the plan includes the development of educational methodology which supports further training of teaching staff and guarantees the development of modern technologies.

Another important element of this concept is the evaluation of the "School Profile" draft, which, following international experience, will be done based on criteria such as: the effectiveness of the teaching process, the wider context of the modern technologies and the student's action. The latter includes the influence and protection from the virtual environment.

One of the most important steps proposed by the Action Plan, is to draft, propose and implement the national project, 'Making digital resources', in order to ensure direct response to the projects [EGON - data mailbox](#).

The use of the [European Social Fund](#) contributes to the success of the Action Plan for the School of 21st century. To a large extent though, the project entirely depends on the budget that will be given next year to the Ministry of Education.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release -gov.cz portal](#) (in Czech)
 - [School Action Plan Document](#)
-

EU: Enhancing the resilience of communications networks - 20 May 2009

The European Network & Information Security Agency, ENISA, presents the first ever EU wide analysis report of National Policy and Regulatory environment on the resilience of public communications networks.

This [report](#) focuses on the analysis of the rules, policies and practices which EU Member States and EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries develop and deploy in order to enhance the resilience of communication networks. It supports a tighter collaboration amongst providers and policy makers, at national and pan European levels, and also provides high level and context specific recommendations to policy and decision makers. The report concludes with a list of identified good practices.

More precisely, this report recommends that:

- Member States may consider soft-law instruments (e.g. good practices and recommendations) as a means to intervene in the market;
- Member States may consider simplification and harmonisation of competences (abilities, faculties) and tasks of relevant national authorities;
- Member States may consider developing and implementing an integrated and holistic national risk management process;
- Member States should consider assessing the degree of operators' adherence to preparedness measures;
- Each Member State must establish one national Computer Emergency Response Team, i.e. 'CERT';
- Member States expressed the need for more "good practice" guidance on emerging policy issues (e.g. trusted information sharing exchanges, incident reporting and exercises);
- The European Commission should consider the development and implementation of a coherent pan European strategy based on Member States' experiences.

The Executive Director of ENISA, Mr Andrea Pirotti comments:

"This work underpins Member States' efforts to debate and co-operate on this issue in a more structured manner. ENISA firmly responds to Member States needs by developing good practices on information sharing, incident reporting and exercises".

Further information:

- [Official press release - Website of ENISA](#)
- [Official ENISA report on "Resilient e-Communications Networks"](#)

UK: Northern Ireland New government website for citizens officially launched - 19 May 2009

Government services and information are being made more accessible to the people of Northern Ireland. That was the message from Finance Minister Nigel Dodds at the official launch, on 7 May 2009, of a new government website - www.nidirect.gov.uk.

Speaking at the event at Clare House, Belfast, Mr Dodds praised [nidirect](#) for its style and ease of use and explained how it represents an important change in how government is interacting with the citizen.

He said: "[nidirect](#) and the wider NI Direct programme is a major part of our plan to reform government services."

"We aim to make it as easy as possible for the people of Northern Ireland to access and use their government information and services. This is a key objective in the Programme for Government and my department has shown its leadership by providing this new website within its target."

"Instead of surfing a range of government websites for information the public can now visit [nidirect](#). In the past week it has shown its value - information on swine flu which previously would have been on a range of different government sites can now be found in one location."

"The new website features lots of useful information from government departments and agencies, written in language that is easy to understand. There are also online transactions for people to do business with government at a time that suits them. Citizens don't need to know, nor should they have to know, the workings of government to find the information they need."

There are 16 themes within [nidirect](#), under headings such as, Motoring, Property and housing, Employment and Money, tax and benefits. Transactions include booking one's MOT (*), ordering birth, death and marriage certificates, buying or renewing one's TV licence or finding local schools and nurseries. The site also contains useful public information video and audio downloads.

Donna Magee, interim Chief Executive of the Consumer Council said: "The launch of NI Direct is good news for consumers who now have a single point of contact for accessing public services. This is what they have been crying

out for. The Consumer Council is proud to have worked in partnership with the Department of Finance and Personnel on this important project by representing the consumer voice and ensuring it was taken into account throughout the development of NI Direct."

Further information:

- [Original press release - Northern Ireland Executive](#)
- [nidirect website](#)

Note: Crown copyright material reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

()The Ministry of Transport test (more usually known as the MOT) is an annual test of car safety, including roadworthiness aspects and exhaust emissions which are applicable to most vehicles over four years old in Northern Ireland if they are used on public roads.*

EU: Transparency in CAP funding - 19 May 2009

A [new EU legislation](#) entered into force on 19 March 2008, provides the framework for the publication of beneficiaries and the sums received from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Transparency of EU funding is part of the [European Transparency Initiative](#), proposed by V-P Kallas in 2005.

By 30 April 2009, the details of the beneficiaries receiving funds under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) had to be publicly accessible on websites managed by the Member States; one website per Member State. In addition, each Member State had to nominate one body in charge of setting up and maintaining its website. All this information will be accessible through a search tool enabling the public to search for beneficiaries by name, municipality, amount received (and the currency concerned), or a combination of these three criteria, and extracting the information as a single dataset.

Details on the precise content of such publications are indicated at:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/funding/index3_en.htm

The information shall be published by 30 April each year for the preceding financial year and shall remain available on the website for two years from the date of their initial publication.

The Member States have to send to the Commission the Internet address of their website as soon as it is set up. To provide an overview and facilitate access to the Member States' websites, the links to these websites, as communicated by the Member States, can be viewed at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/funding/index_en.htm. The Commission will provide updates of these links according to the information sent by the Member States.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Website of Vice-President of the EC Siim Kallas - News Archive](#)
- [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 259/2008 of 18 March 2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1290/2005](#)
- [Official website of DG for Agriculture and Rural Development](#)
- [Official website of Transparency, the European Transparency Initiative](#)

New Factsheets

The 11th Editions of the eGovernment factsheets for Latvia and Spain as well as the 3rd Edition for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [INT: Improving Access to Government through Better Use of the Web](#) | 12 May 2009 | International Organizations

INT: Improving Access to Government through Better Use of the Web - 12 May 2009

Description (short summary):

Current Web technology allows governments to share with the public a variety of information in unlimited quantities on demand. Technology is also available to allow citizens to bring issues of concern to the attention of local, regional and national governments. However, exploiting these capabilities within government systems is a challenge that encompasses environmental, policy, legal, and cultural issues. Establishing effective eGovernment requires openness, transparency, collaboration and skill in taking advantage of the capabilities of the World Wide Web. The rich potential for two-way dialogue between citizens and government creates a need for global leadership. The W3C has an opportunity to provide guidance in support of eGovernment objectives by promoting existing open Web standards and noting the challenges external to the Web and technology. There is also role for the W3C to facilitate the development and vetting of new open Web standards needed by governments in context.

This document is an attempt to describe, but not yet solve, the variety of issues and challenges faced by governments in their efforts to apply 21st century capabilities to eGovernment initiatives. Detail and useful examples of existing, applicable open Web standards are provided. Where government needs in the development of eGovernment services are not currently met by existing standards, those gaps are noted. This publication as an Interest Group Note represents the culmination of the first year of the W3C eGovernment Interest Group work.

Number of pages: 44

Upcoming Events

- [FR: Health Information Technologies 2009](#) | 26 - 28 May 2009 | France
 - [AT: Porvoo 15 Conference 2009](#) | 27 - 28 May 2009 | Austria
 - [ES: Admira Sal009](#) | 28 - 30 May 2009 | Spain
 - [PL: European Forum on Electronic Signature 2009](#) | 03 - 05 June 2009 | Poland
 - [CH: LinuxDays 2009](#) | 03 - 05 June 2009 | Switzerland
 - [UK: CIS User Forum and 1st Pan-European Workshop](#) | 04 - 05 June 2009 | United Kingdom
 - [PL: ICVP09 - International Conference on Virtual Patients](#) | 05 - 06 June 2009 | Poland
 - [IT: Cross-border e-he@lth](#) | 10 June 2009 | Italy
 - [BE: eDemocracy and eParticipation Workshop](#) | 12 June 2009 | Belgium
 - [FI: International Conference: Beyond the dawn of Innovation \(BDI\)](#) | 15 - 17 June 2009 | Finland
 - [NL: INSPIRE Conference 2009](#) | 15 - 19 June 2009 | Netherlands
 - [DE: Access to Environmental Information - Freedom of Information in Favour of Environmental Protection?](#) | 18 - 19 June 2009 | Germany
 - [IT: Cybertherapy 14 and Cyberpsychology 2009](#) | 21 - 23 June 2009 | Italy
 - [RO: E-Health and Bioengineering Conference 2009](#) | 17 - 18 September 2009 | Romania
 - [FR: Smart Event 2009](#) | 22 - 25 September 2009 | France
-

FR: Health Information Technologies 2009 - 26 - 28 May 2009

Hit Paris, the European healthcare information technologies congress and exhibition, was launched in 2007 on the initiative of the FHF (French Hospital Federation) in response to the need of Healthcare players for information and

training in areas concerning the modernisation and development of information technologies. An integral part of continuous professional training, it has been constructed around three key words: quality, pragmatism and transversality.

The event is set to be a new key event for all those involved in modernising health care. The European Health Information Systems Congress is therefore designed to bring together all actors involved in the process. Congress participants will come from the following fields:

- Institutionals: GIP, DHOS, ARH, Conferences, Agencies
- Hospital decision-makers: General Managers, IT Management, Medical IT Management, CME Presidents, Cluster Managers
- Users (Doctors, pharmacists, health executives)
- Private practice professionals
- Standardisation organisms
- Manufacturers and industrialists, financial providers and consultancy businesses.

Hit Paris 2009 is freely accessible to conference and exhibition participants and all healthcare professionals. The programme and registration for the congress will be available soon. All those interested may find more details and submit their papers [here](#). As for exhibitors, they may also find more details about participation [online](#).

Event email: info.pgpromotion@fr.cmpmedica.com

Event website: <http://www.health-it.fr/index.asp>

Country: France

City/Location: Paris

Organiser: La Fédération hospitalière de France (French Hospital Federation), PG Promotion

AT: Porvoo 15 Conference 2009 - 27 - 28 May 2009

The Porvoo Group is an international cooperative network of government representatives whose primary goal is to promote a trans-national, interoperable electronic identity, based on Public Key Infrastructure (PKI technology) and electronic ID cards, in order to help ensure secure public and private sector e-transactions in Europe.

As its name suggests, the Porvoo Group was established in the Finnish city of Porvoo in April 2002. The Group has seen constant expansion. The majority of its members represent their respective national authorities but representatives of the business community as well as the European Commission and the UN have also contributed to its work. At present, some 30 countries from Europe, the United States, Canada and Asia have representatives in the Group. Porvoo Group conferences have been attended by as many as approximately one hundred delegates.

The Porvoo Group's two-day conferences are held every six months. The conferences always include a comprehensive presentation by the hosting country on the situation of the Information Society and the electronic identity. In addition, the participating countries present their country updates. The primary objective of the conferences is to bring under discussion "Best practices" in the PKI technology, present on-going PKI projects, follow the progress of standardisation and biometrics in the field of electronic identity, discuss various studies concerning the EU Directive governing electronic signatures and draft statements and proposals to the European Commission when deemed necessary.

The themes of the Porvoo Conference 2009 include: national eID development projects in Austria, the STORK pilot project, electronic signature, standardisation and biometrics. Registration to the event is open and free and can be performed by filling the relevant [form](#) by 26 April 2009.

Event email: porvoo15@a-sit.at and porvoo.group@vrk.fi

Event website: <http://porvoo15.a-sit.at/index.php>

Country: Austria

City/Location: Vienna

Organiser: SU.ZMR - Austrian Ministry for the Interior Support Unit ZMR, Digital Austria, Secure Information Technology Center - Austria (A-SIT)

ES: Admira Salón 009 - 28 - 30 May 2009

The *Admira Salón* is a Spanish event dedicated to presenting products and services aimed at modernising the Public Administration. The 2009 edition will in particular cover the following sectors:

- eGovernment: public services, modernization, safety, infrastructure;
- eProcurement;
- eHealth;
- Economy, employment and tourism;
- Environment;
- Learning;
- Social Services;
- Transport infrastructures;
- Urban Planning and GIS.

Admira Salón will, apart from an exhibition area, provide a range of technical events consisting of the following categories:

- **Thematic Plenary sessions:** forums where representatives of central, regional (Autonomous Communities) and local government will present the most innovative projects currently underway in Castilla y León, as well as in other regions and administrations.
- **The Administrations' Space:** in this area, practical presentations will complement the topics presented in the thematic plenary sessions, thus covering all the innovation of public administrations.
- **The "Innovation-Cube":** an area where exhibitors will present their cases and their most innovative proposals in order to show to attendees projects for practical application in various administration sectors.

Representatives from various levels of government involved in innovation and in the modernization of public services and their management will attend the event. Directors and chief executive officers in areas such as eGovernment, Information Society, environment, energy, urban development, infrastructure, education, culture, health, security, citizenship will participate in the thematic plenary sessions which will be held on 28 and 29 May 2009.

Further information regarding the program of the event can be found [here](#).

Registration is free of charge for professionals. The professional pass can be obtained through the event website, or by emailing visitantes@feriavalladolid.com.

Event email: organizacion@mymgrupo.com

Event website: <http://www.salonadmira.es>

Country: Spain

City/Location: Valladolid (Castilla y León)

Organiser: Feria de Valladolid and MyM Group

PL: European Forum on Electronic Signature 2009 - 03 - 05 June 2009

The European Forum on Electronic Signature (EFPE) is dedicated to the issues of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and e-signature related services. The main topic of the 9th edition of the Conference will be "Role of electronic signature in the Information Society".

The conference will consist of main panel and workshops and will be composed of three main modules, namely: Law, Technology, Applications. It will be attended by representatives of Government authorities, Public administration, IT firms, PKI users, Customers of e-signature-related services.

The honorary patronage of the EFPE in previous years was assumed by the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Poland (whose competences include e-signature issues), the Minister of Science and Information Technology, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), and the Federal Agency of Information Technologies of the Russian Federation (FAIT).

Registration to the event can be performed [online](#) with the payment of a fee. Further information about the conditions for participation is available [here](#).

The languages of the event are English, Polish and Russian.

Event email: info@efpe.eu

Event website: <http://www.efpe.eu>

Country: Poland

City/Location: Miedzyzdroje

Organiser: Unizeto Technologies, National Clearing House SA (KIR SA), West Pomerania University of Technology, Polish Security Printing Works SA

CH: LinuxDays 2009 - 03 - 05 June 2009

LinuxDays 2009

LinuxDays 2009 provides an environment to foster collaboration through knowledge sharing, facilitated discussions with real deliverables and opportunities to network with others that have either «been there and done it», are in the process of planning, developing and implementing, or are providing technology and professional services to help organizations leverage from open source assets.

This year, there will be 4 tracks, with the following themes:

- Public Administrations (June 4th-5th): The track is dedicated to public sector initiatives in the field of open source software. On one hand this is because in Europe this sector is often the engine in the broad acceptance and understanding of open source software, and on the other because the State of Geneva has for several years expressed its willingness to move in this direction. The following themes have been selected to exchange and gather leads this year: Change Management, Forges and communities, Legal aspects and public.
- Education (June 3rd): Private, public, primary, secondary and higher education areas use open source. Thus, developing open source applications and implementing technology will improve the way children are being educated to be able to grow within a fast changing environment. Open Source in education is also critical to helping the developing world break down the technology divide.
- Open for Business (June 3rd - 5th): The track is for commercial enterprises of all sizes, not-for-profit international bodies and Non Governmental Organisations who want to see what others have done and what technological possibilities there are to help organisations meet their tactical needs and strategic objectives.
- Grid solutions (June 5th): The track is designed to illustrate how IT strategists from a broad spectrum of businesses and public administration can gain greater advantage through the adoption of grid computing with insight from developers and experts from the grid arena.

The event is open and free. Registration can be performed [online](#). Further information regarding the program of the conference is available [here](#).

Event email: <http://2009.linuxdays.ch/content/contact-form>

Event website: <http://2009.linuxdays.ch/>

Country: Switzerland

City/Location: Geneva

Organiser: Linalis, with the State of Geneva as a partner

UK: CÍ S User Forum and 1st Pan-European Workshop - 04 - 05 June 2009

ÆGIS (Open Source-based Generalised Accessibility Support for Mainstream ICT) aims to make devices like desktop computers, mobile phones and internet applications more accessible to people with disabilities: the end-users. The project will produce assistive software that can be built into mainstream devices. It will also create tool kits for software developers; accessible solutions developed using Open Source technologies. ÆGIS is placing users and their needs at the centre of all its ICT developments, and focuses in particular on users with visual, hearing, motion, speech, language and cognitive impairments.

The ÆGIS User Forum, to take place on 4 June 2009, aims at having fruitful discussions between both end-users and application developers, thus better understanding user's needs when wanting to use accessible desktop, mobile and

internet applications. It will ensure that future technologies and services will meet the needs of the end-users, and both mainstream and assistive technology developers.

The User Forum's Agenda includes the following topics:

- ÆGIS project at a glance
- ÆGIS technical presentation
- Demos
- Interactive (via discussion) generic use case user scenario presentation

In the same framework, supported by the 7th Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development of the European Union, the ÆGIS Workshop, to take place on 5 June 2009, will present the preliminary findings of the ÆGIS project related to the Use Cases selection and preliminary user requirements, thus stimulating discussions on these issues between both end-users and application developers. Its outcome will be taken into account by the ÆGIS Consortium during the further course of the project. Key stakeholders from relevant areas are expected to participate (such as end users' representatives and organisations, EC representatives, technologies developers, etc.). Experts from relevant fields will have the chance to meet at this workshop.

Some of the topics to be discussed during the Workshop are the following:

- EU Policies on eInclusion
- Demos and Technical Overview
- ÆGIS Draft Use Cases and discussion
- Standardisation and Demonstration Issues on eInclusion

Participation both to the ÆGIS User Forum and Workshop is free of charge and registration may be performed by filling the [User Forum](#) and [Workshop form](#) which should then be sent either by fax to +32 2 736 86 22 or [email](#) before 30 April 2009. However, due to space limitation, participation will be on a first-come first-served basis.

Event email: info@aegis-project.eu

Event website: <http://www.aegis-project.eu/>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: Slough, Berkshire

Organiser: ÆGIS (Open Source-based Generalised Accessibility Support for Mainstream ICT)

PL: ICVP09 - International Conference on Virtual Patients - 05 - 06 June 2009

The significance of eLearning in academic curricula is constantly taking on. This trend is particularly noticeable in medicine, where various specialized forms of computer aided learning emerge.

Among them are virtual patients - computer simulations of real-life clinical scenarios for the purpose of education in medicine, nursing or dentistry. Representing logically consistent clinical cases, they offer effective means of facilitating problem-based sessions on various learning stages (pre-clinical, clinical years, CME).

Virtual patients grow in importance due to the decreased time spend by patients in hospitals, time constraints of clinical teachers or difficulties in presenting rare diseases. It is very likely that one day, training on virtual patients will become for medical students as natural as flight simulators are for pilots.

The aim of this conference is to promote the usage of virtual patients in medical curricula. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics related to creation and application of virtual patients.

The conference is open to participants with considerable experience in the field of virtual patients, as well as for those who just started considering including problem-based learning tools at their schools. Registration can be performed [online](#) at the event's website.

Event email: icvp09@gmail.com

Event website: <http://icvp09.cm-uj.krakow.pl/>

Country: Poland

IT: Cross-border e-he@lth - 10 June 2009

The aim of the meeting is to discuss the opportunities and challenges regions face when applying new technologies to health across regional and national borders in Europe. Regions will exchange their experiences and best practices and discuss with other regions possible cooperation and funding opportunities, find partners or join projects.

The Assembly of European Regions (A.E.R) e-he@lth Network is looking for regions to present the initiatives adopted in their territories in relation to cross-border e-health.

Contributions to the e-health Seminar are to be sent [here](#).

The registration is open and free and should be performed by 25 May; the registration form as well as practical information can be found on the [event's website](#).

Event email: c.meschede@aer.eu

Event website: <http://www.aer.eu/en/events/health-social/2009/ehealth-fvg.html>

Country: Italy

City/Location: Trieste

Organiser: Assembly of European Regions (A.E.R) e-he@lth Network

BE: eDemocracy and eParticipation Workshop - 12 June 2009

eDemocracy is an emerging field of activity inspired by advocates of direct democracy (political level) and ICT (technical level). Despite this, there has already been considerable research in the field (from the political science, social science, technology, information theory and computer science domains). Of the different fields constituting eDemocracy, eParticipation appears to be both the most dynamic and the most promising with regard to enhancing the democratic process. Nevertheless eParticipation is a relatively young field as far as research is concerned, despite of the continuously growing needs.

This workshop will gauge the status of current research both conducting actual eDemocracy and eParticipation experiments and in studying (observing) various aspects of such activities. The latter includes studying and identifying the barriers to greater online citizen engagement in policy-making.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Direct democracy examples such as eVoting, electioneering and polling.
- eParticipation experiment design.
- Assessment of impact and comparative research.
- Tools and practices for eConsultation, ePetition, conflict resolution and mediation, eDeliberation and others.
- ICT for argumentation support, collaboration and content management.
- National policy issues and initiatives.
- Risks associated with eDemocracy.
- Two thirds of the workshop's duration will be devoted to presentations and one third to discussion on future research issues. The detailed agenda will be made available to all participants once contributions by perspective speakers have been received and finalised.

Additional information can be found in the workshop's [call for participation](#).

The workshop is open to all eGovernment stakeholders and in particular to:

- Representatives of eGovernment research projects in FP6 and FP7.
- Researchers, interested practitioners and promotion experts.

- The event is open to all, but places are limited. Short abstracts of no more than 150 words from those wishing to give a presentation are accepted. All submissions are to be sent via email to eGovR@eurodyn.com not later than the 29 May 2009.

Event email: egovo@eurodyn.be

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/egovernment/studies/trendswatch/index_en.htm

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: Directorate General Information Society and Media Unit H2, European Commission

FI: International Conference: Beyond the dawn of Innovation (BDI) - 15 - 17 June 2009

New innovations rise every day around the globe, both socially and technically-oriented. Therefore, it is of an utmost importance to stay focused and keep on track.

The Conference will bring together academics, business leaders and other professionals from both private and public sectors in order to discuss and share knowledge on innovation-related matters. It will contain competitive paper presentations, inspiring keynote sessions, and panel discussion; special session proposals are welcomed. The BDI event will contain competitive paper presentations, inspiring keynote sessions together with luncheon speeches, interactive panel discussion, and conference tutorial.

The submissions of innovation-related papers may include, but are not limited to, the following sub-themes:

- New Innovative Education Opportunities
- Entrepreneurship as an Innovation Process
- Innovation as Competitive Advantage
- Innovative Revenue Sharing and Business Models
- Innovation Networks and Alliances
- Developing Societies as Innovators
- Best Practices in Innovation Processes
- Innovation Management Policy and Practice
- Innovative Service Concepts (including Public Sector)
- Seamless R&D in Innovation Process
- Incremental and Radial Innovation Strategies
- Building Innovation Corporations
- Innovation Efficiency as Firm Behavior
- The Many Faces of Innovation: Knowledge-Based, ICT-Enabled Strategic, Open, New Product, Sustainable and Social
- Innovation as a State of Mind
- Innovative Organizational Culture
- Facilitating and Sustaining Innovation Environments
- Tools for Innovation
- Idea Management
- Commercialization of Innovation
- Breaking the Innovator's Block
- Creativity Busters and Boosters
- Scalability of an Invention

Registration requires the payment of a [fee](#) (special rates are available for students and accompanying guests). The number of expected participants is around 100.

Call for Abstracts:

Posters and oral presentations based on abstracts welcome. Abstracts of 500- 1500 characters are to be submitted **before 10 April 2009** to bdi.papers@laurea.fi.

The abstracts must indicate whether the submission is to be presented in a poster format or as an oral presentation at the Conference. The submissions should apply a novel approach of some sort in relation to the subject in hand and

present fresh ideas and/or innovative research results. The submission for poster session and other oral presentations (besides competitive paper manuscripts) are not subject to refereed, double-blind peer review.

Event email: bdi.info@laurea.fi

Event website: <http://www.laureap2p.fi/bdi/index.html>

Country: Finland

City/Location: Hyvinkää

Organiser: Laurea University of Applied Sciences

NL: INSPIRE Conference 2009 - 15 - 19 June 2009

The third INSPIRE conference takes place in conjunction with the [Eleventh International Conference of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure \(GSDI\) Association](#) entitled "Building SDI Bridges to Address Global Challenges" and the National conference on Dutch SDI: Results and Challenges.

The INSPIRE Conference provides a forum for stakeholders from government, academia and industry to hear about and discuss the latest developments of the INSPIRE Directive.

This year, by teaming with the GSDI and Dutch National conferences, the INSPIRE conference encompasses a conference programme, technical tutorials and workshops, a programme of demonstrations and an exhibition to provide an ideal opportunity to learn and network with like-minded colleagues from around the world.

The focus of the INSPIRE sessions and workshops will be placed on reviewing the progress of the implementation of the [INSPIRE Directive](#) and on the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDIs) in general.

The event's objectives are to:

- View the current state of progress of the INSPIRE legislation;
- Share knowledge on the progress of transposition of the INSPIRE Directive in the Member States;
- Offer an opportunity to the INSPIRE Drafting Teams and Thematic Working Groups to report on the development of the INSPIRE Implementing Rules;
- Further the understanding of the implementation challenges, costs, and benefits of SDIs at national, regional, and local level;
- Identify key issues and opportunities for European SDI projects;
- Build SDI Bridges to Address Global Challenges.

Participation requires prior [online registration](#) at the website of the 11th GSDI Conference. Various fees apply and early rates are available for those booking by 15 March 2009.

Event email: ec-gis@jrc.it

Event website: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2009/

Country: Netherlands

City/Location: Rotterdam

Organiser: European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC)

DE: Access to Environmental Information - Freedom of Information in Favour of Environmental Protection? - 18 - 19 June 2009

The Symposium will be hosted by the Brandenburg State Commissioner for Data Protection and Access Information. Public bodies are obliged to release information useful for engagement to the environment under the Environmental Information Act in order to support the citizens' commitment to environmental protection. In practice, the act's implementation gives rise to several questions: What exactly does "information about the environment" mean? To what extent are private bodies subject to the act? How far does the Environmental Information Act overlap with the general Freedom of Information legislation?

The International Symposium analyzes the basis of the Environmental Information Act in European law and focuses on the practice in separate states. The use of the right to environmental information by Non-Governmental Organizations, the significance of judicial decisions as well as different legal and institutional models will be portrayed. The conference also will deal with the obligatory publication of environmental information and its realization by means of environmental information systems. Experts from Brandenburg, the federal level, the European Union and its member states will give insights into current projects and discuss the role of transparency in the field of environmental protection.

The programme of the conference can be downloaded from [here](#). There is no registration fee. Early registration though is recommended as seating is limited; further information on the registration procedure can be found at the event's [website](#).

Event email: Poststelle@LDA.brandenburg.de

Event website: http://www.lda.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=bb2.c.550422.de%20&template=allgemein_Ida

Country: Germany

City/Location: Potsdam

Organiser: Alcatel-Lucent Stiftung, the German Association for Law and Information Technology, the Independent Institute for Environmental Concerns

IT: Cybertherapy 14 and Cyberpsychology 2009 - 21 - 23 June 2009

The CT14 brings together researchers, clinicians, policy makers and funding agencies to share and discuss advancements in the growing disciplines of CyberTherapy & CyberPsychology. The deadline for the call for abstracts is 15 January 2009.

The conference will seek input from a wider segment of the scientific community, and is interested in attracting experts in clinical therapy and rehabilitation, cognitive sciences, social sciences, and computer sciences interested in the meeting's core topics: emerging applications, design and effects of New Media.

There is also an interest in continuing to design, evaluate and apply cutting edge technologies such as: Ambient Intelligence, Augmented and Mixed Reality, Avatars, Shared Virtual Worlds, Video Game Virtual Reality (VGVR), Web 2.0 and 3.0, 3G and 4G mobile phones.

Oral presentations, posters and symposiums are sought in the following areas: Adaptive Displays; Addictions; Advanced user interfaces; Ambient Intelligence; Anxiety disorders; Augmented reality; Autism; Avatars and autonomous agents; Brain Computer Interfaces; Cognitive assessment; Cyberaddiction; Cyberbullying; Cybersickness; Distance Learning and learning communities; Eating disorders, obesity and body image disturbances; Education; Haptics; Internet; Internet Addiction; Mobile Computing; Mobile Phones; Motor Rehabilitation ; Multiplayer on-line game; Neuropsychological assessment; Pain reduction; Physiological measurement and imaging during immersion in VR; Posttraumatic Stress Disorder; Presence; Psychotherapy; Rehabilitation; Robotics; Schizophrenia; Science 2.0; Serious Gaming; Social Networking; Telehealth and videoconferencing; Training; Videogame applications; Virtual reality applications; Web 2.0.

The accepted abstracts will be published in a regular issue of the journal Cyberpsychology and Behavior (indexed in Medline and PsychInfo) and presentations will be available in PDF on the CT14 web site shortly after the conference. The Proceedings, an important record of the each year's conference, are published by IOS Press in Amsterdam (<http://www.iospress.nl>) as part of its Studies in Health Technology and Informatics (SHTI) series, in hard copy and online (<http://www.booksonline.iospress.nl>). The complete series has been accepted in Medline.

This year's conference will feature three awards delivered in a luncheon ceremony on 23 June 2009:

- the Annual 'CRC-Clinical Cyberpsychology New Investigator Award' for a presentation of outstanding research quality. The aim of the new Award is to reward the presentation of strong methodological studies at the CyberTherapy conference. It includes a certificate and a check of \$1 000 (approx. €540);
- the 5th Annual 'CyberTherapy Excellence in Research Award', honoring a person who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in the fields of virtual reality and behavioral healthcare;
- three 'Student Poster Awards – Today's students are tomorrow's leaders'. Accompanying this honor will be three \$250 (approx.€185) - National Institute of Education (Singapore) <http://www.nie.edu.sg>

Registration and abstracts submission are to be performed [online](#) by 15 January 2009. The registration fees range from €290 to €600. Participation is open to all those interested. Approximately 150 attendees are expected.

Event email: cinziavigna@gmail.com

Event website: www.e-therapy.info

Country: Italy

City/Location: Verbania-Intra

Organiser: Interactive Media Institute and Istituto Auxologico Italiano

RO: E-Health and Bioengineering Conference 2009 - 17 - 18 September 2009

The main focus of EHB 2009, the second edition of the EHB conference, is placed on ehealth and bioengineering in general. Its goals are to promote concepts and advanced hardware and software technologies in the emerging domains of ehealth, telemedicine, medical devices/equipment, medical informatics, biomechanics, biomaterials, biotechnologies and healthcare management.

Another objective is to strengthen the interdisciplinary synergy between medical and technical researchers and practitioners, within the generous framework of medical bioengineering, in order to establish and promote advanced scientific concepts, methods and technologies for medical services and healthcare in Romania and enlarged Europe. In this respect, a special attention will be granted in the next years to targeting research to the real needs of patients, through different national and international projects and partnerships.

Last but not least, EHB 2009 represents a new "official" occasion to show that telemedicine in Romania and particularly in Iași exceeds the level of other more or less theoretical approaches and demonstrative issues. Its maturity was already proven by real time transmission and analysis of some vital biosignals of patients, performed by using the facilities offered by the first Romanian Telemedical Regional Centre located at the Faculty of Medical Bioengineering of the „Gr.T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Iași, which was developed by a local team within two research pilot projects - TELMES and TELEMON - financed by the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research.

The intention is therefore to promote procedures for teleconsultation, telediagnosis and telemonitoring, providing an alternative to be employed in the healthcare system that could be made available "every time and anywhere" for those persons who need such a public service.

The [topics to be covered](#) and the [full papers' submission guidelines](#) can be viewed online.

The organisers expect to attract over 200 attendees. The registration fee is 300 RON (approximately €70).

Event email: ehb2009@bioinginerie.ro

Event website: <http://www.bioinginerie.ro/ehb2009>

Country: Romania

City/Location: Constanta

Organiser: "Gr. T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iasi, the Romanian Society of Medical Bioengineering and "Ovidius" University of Constanta

FR: Smart Event 2009 - 22 - 25 September 2009

Smart Event is as an international forum of knowledge-sharing, learning and networking in the fields of e-ID, e-mobility and Smart Security. It has proven to be a meeting place for world-class researchers, innovators, developers and business decision-makers. The event encompasses 3 international conferences covering complementary areas:

- The future of digital security technologies, e-Smart.
- The building of trusted mobile applications, Smart mobility
- The next generation of e-ID management technologies and services, World e-ID.

The relevant calls for papers are open until 13 March 2009.

Smart Event features contents combining scientific and strategic presentations of Industry experts, researchers and academics, as well as governmental and institutional representatives.

The *Smart University* advanced educational programme as well as a series of workshops and meetings complete the agenda.

Smart Event 2009 addresses high level professionals that foster research and innovation the e-ID, e-mobility and Smart Security fields. Based on a steady growing audience, the target for 2009 exceeds 800 attendees. Regardless their activity - Academia, eGovernment, Institutions, Standardisation, Research, Integrators/Consultancy, Manufacturer/hardware, Security Solutions Providers, Content Service & Telecoms Operators – they all play an important and crucial influence on major decisions in the mobility, trusted technologies and services marketplace.

Registration will be performed online with the payment of a fee, and it will commence in April 2009.

Event email: info@strategiestm.com

Event website: <http://www.strategiestm.com/conferences/smart-event/09/index.htm>

Country: France

City/Location: French Riviera

Organiser: Strategies Telecoms and Media

The European ePractice Newsletter is published under a contract with the European Commission. The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on its behalf is responsible for the use that might be made of the information provided.

© European Communities, 2009. Reproduction is authorised, except for commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged